



Project Concept for Back Issues

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Project Overview

The following document consists of the concept and target audience for the media project, Back Issues, a zine-like publication from 2000 of one woman's poetry.

Back Issues, a compilation of prose and poetry by Ann Kline, gets its name from the effect a back injury had on her life. The title is also a play on publications; their old issues being "back issues". The poems are titled by the date they were written.

Through the use of animation software and my own interpretation of the poems, I would like to take this poetry and turn it into a multimedia presentation that would allow the user to experience each poem visually and immerse them emotionally.



Project Objectives

- To convey an unstable yet somewhat hopeful emotional experience.
- To provide the user with an interactive media experience through the use of motion pictures and sound.
- To develop concepts that are in sync with the emotional context of each piece.



Concept

To bring this project to life, the entire experience will evoke a feeling of uncertainty, or limbo. The final product will have a slightly unsettling, lukewarm environment, in which each poem will be available for viewing. All elements will bare the branding of the project, tying the pieces and the interface together. The interface will allow access to the pieces as audio/visual elements that can be controlled by the user.

Each poem will be treated as a separate conceptual piece and will feature unique audio and visual elements that will create the emotional state of the poem. Some pieces will be narrated, while others will not. Visual elements will include still images and video as well as graphics and animation. Audio will be used for these pieces, but how it is used will depend on the piece. I have commissioned some friends who are musicians for music to go with these pieces. The pieces will be short, but true to their words. Text will definitely play a large part in the presentation of these pieces being that these are poems. But the message of each will depend on the entirety of the piece. Common elements will be used in the pieces to tie them together, such as the Back Issues symbol and any sort of spinal motif. The pieces should make the user feel like they are watching short independent film that has a beginning and an end. They should leave the experience deep in thought and with an understanding of the poem they just experienced.

Each piece will be accessed through a web page that will either be entirely flash or both flash and html. I think this probable in that the pieces will not be long, and should be a relatively manageable size. For accessibility, the pieces will also be available in text format and mono audio format. The site will also feature a credits page as well as an about and contact page.



Selected Pieces for this Project

05.04.96

The light in your eyes is blinding
the crying from my lips is whining
Yours are crystal blue
Mine are blood red
you share your dreams and happiness
and tell me god is dead
I lay with my confusion
as you say god is love
I am so far below
and you are so far above
so different yet so alike
you know what they say about big hands
big gloves
yes my ramblings and confusion maybe a bore
but you said it first
your heart is a whore
the insanity of this makes me sane
Blood rushing through your veins
your words rising in my brain
and I know I will never affect you
but I will never be the same
hung up on the hang ups
like the innocent hanging from a rope
you make it so hard to understand
yet so easy to cope
as the night moves to morning
love is dead
and we stand alone
all you hear is a sigh and a moan
but if I could find the words to tell
communication wouldn't be our hell

- Ann Kline



Selected Pieces for this Project

10.06.96

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING
I COULDN'T FIND
LAST NIGHT
I KNOW IT WAS THERE
LAST WEEK
I FOUND IT
LAST TIME
IT WAS THERE
IN THE BACK OF MY MIND
ALONG WITH THE FEAR
THAT MAYBE IT WAS GONE
LOST
LIKE THE BLIND
LIKE THE TIME
LIKE MY MIND
MAYBE
THERE WAS NOTHING
LEFT TO FIND

- Ann Kline



Selected Pieces for this Project

2.4.98

so cold
beauty
as good
as the sea
good for me
bad day
can't
give way
very grave
this night
in the dark
passing cars
uncomfortably
crouched
screaming
at a
dead woman
breezes blow
the most calm
i know
i can't
rouse you
from eternal sleep
please, from
the ground
let your knowledge
seep
fingers in
healthy grass
but still
no answers
to the questions
i ask

last hope
the sky
i see through pain
orion
posed
in vain
jealous of
a constellation
i leave
insane
bad day
can't
give way
bad night
empty
no insight

- Ann Kline



Selected Pieces for this Project

1.6.00

Work awake
And no smokes for the fifth day
One thousand hours could have
passed
And I would still feel this way
Why like you when you love him
But truth I asked
And absence I have received
Survival of the fittest
And it fits
Me that you are gone
Communication
Is necessary
But not to you
I do not read minds
Is this the bond of time?
Keep every thing from me
And you fear my whine
Clearing the slate
For him.
How did I not predict this?
Give me a month
And I will still feel this.
Guess I am blessed
To have never known...
Once again, deny, deny
Another day like this
Happens with little change
And forced bliss
Hopeful walking
On this wire
Why like you when you like her
I know I am better
But burning fire

Is often squelched
By cold water
So here am I
Dripping with humiliation
All without a tear
That well long dry
Impure angels
Always walk away
With their heads high
Honest with life
And humble in strife
But never chosen
So is it naïve to believe
These wings are meant to fly
Or to carry me till I die?
Square two is often lively
Yet awfully lonely
Saints I do not admire
Have shown me that road.
So I have to find the way
Away from all that
Welcome to new school
It's better than old school
My eyes are open
And I am working and waiting
And not smoking
For myself

- Ann Kline



Proposed Alternate Piece

2.2.00

every encounter happens fast
and i just remember how it felt
like diving head first
and then being completely immersed
your new colors are unfamiliar
and I want to touch you
but i don't and then your gone
and i am racing through my mind
to find a good excuse
to be dripping wet
and covered with fear

- Ann Kline

Note: This poem was not included in the original proposal for Back Issues. It was published in the print version of Back Issues. It just wasn't selected for as one of the four pieces for this project. A fruitful experiment has resulted in it's proposed replacement of 1.6.00. For more information, please visit <http://carrieshetler.com/mm380/project2/>.



Completion Plan

The design decisions in this document will set the stage for further conceptual development of Back Issues. This project will be my prime effort as multimedia designer, allowing me to showcase my technical and conceptual design skills. I feel that this project will allow me to gain the experience I desire as I enter the workforce with my degree in the next year.

The following is a weekly plan to complete Back Issues by the end of February 2005.

Week Begins	Week ends	Tasks
1.10.05	1.16.05	Storyboards
1.17.05	1.23.05	Audio Production
1.24.05	1.30.05	Imagery/Graphics
1.31.05	2.6.05	Motion Graphics/Flash
2.7.05	2.13.05	* Launch Beta 1
2.14.05	2.20.05	Fixes/Testing/QA
2.21.05	2.27.05	* Launch Beta 2
2.28.05	3.6.05	QA
3.7.05	3.13.05	* Soft Launch

* Milestone